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Even for attending the Constituent Assembly, it depends upon the exigencies of the situation. As I said, there is no definite ban on their attendance."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member seems to suggest that if the Ministers resign, some others may take their place."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Considering all aspects of the question, is it not advisable for the Ministers now at least to resign from the Constituent Assembly? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I don't think the Government will consider the question either now or in the near future."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are not this Government anxious that this Province should be represented on the Constituent Assembly in adequate numbers? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I can assure the hon. Member that the claims of this Province are well represented and the interests well protected by members who are already there."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" If the Hon. Minister concedes that this Province should be adequately represented, will those who cannot attend the session of the Constituent Assembly resign and make room for those who can find time to devote to the work? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have already stated that the claims and interests of this Province are well represented and protected."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" May I know whether the ordinary members of the Constituent Assembly are allowed to take a clerk and a peon with them as is the case with the Ministers?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am not in a position to say what the ordinary members are allowed or are not allowed."

Administration of the Pudukottah State.

* 49 Q.—DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have taken over the administration of the Pudukottah State;

(*b*) if so, whether they were consulted by the Government of India before this step was taken; and

(*c*) whether they had opportunities of considering all aspects of the question and the responsibilities of the Provincial Government in taking over the State?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

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" (b) No.

" (c) The question does not arise."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" My point was whether this Government were consulted as to the steps that should be taken before the merger of the Pudukottah State with the Madras Province was effected."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it a fact that pressure was brought to bear on the Raja of Pudukottah for the merger? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have already informed the House that this Government were not consulted. Therefore I am not in a position to answer the question."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether this Government had to obey the instruction issued by the States Ministry to take over the administration of the Pudukottah State without any previous consultation? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As far as this Government are aware, they were not previously consulted. They were asked to take charge and they took charge. It is open to this Government to make any representation with regard to the many problems that call for solution consequent upon taking over the administration of the State."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know wheher the Government are aware that some of those problems may lead to difficulties in the administration of this Province and as such whether the Central Government ought not to have consulted this Government before asking them to take such a serious step? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir. It is also true that it is open to this Government to make representations with regard to the difficulties with which they are faced, and they are just now considering the matter."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Is it within the knowledge of this Government that the administration of the State was so bad that steps had to be taken before taking over the State? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" This Government had no official statement from the State of Pudukottah But from reports in the press and speeches made, we knew that there was trouble in the State."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the speeches that were delivered by two members of the Indian Civil Service in connexion with the function of taking over the State and whether those speeches were authorized by the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" When they took over charge on behalf of the Government, they made the statement that this Government were taking over charge. The Government have received from the officers a communication and also a report."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether they had any instructions from the Government in making those statements? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" This Government asked them to take charge of the administration of the Pudukottah State. In taking over charge, they made no committal statement as such except that they told the people that the Government of Madras on behalf of the Government of India were taking charge of the State."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I respectfully suggest to the Government, particularly the Minister in charge of Services, that the convention that is followed in Great Britain of the civil servants of the Government being seen and not heard be respected in this country also? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" That suggestion shall be considered."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the opposition to the merger by the members of the Pudukottah State Council as well as the people and, if so, will the Government of Madras be pleased to acquaint the Government of India with the feelings of the people? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am sure the Government of India know about it."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact that sovereignty rests with the people and not with the ruler? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" This is a question which he must ask the people of the State of Pudukottah."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Having effected the merger, will the Government of Madras acquaint the Government of India with the feelings of the people of the State? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Many questions have been asked on this subject. Hon. Members would have read the speech made by the States Minister and also by Mr. N. V. Gadgil as representing the States Minister. It is the policy of the Government of India, as stated on the floor of the Dominion Legislature, to try to get all viable States under the new Constitution. It is very difficult for these small States to be viable States in the new Union of India. With that end in view, the Government of India, with the consent of the rulers concerned, have taken over some of the States and merged them with the Provinces which are

contiguous to the States. Questions of the nature which have been addressed in this House ought naturally to be addressed in the Dominion Legislature and not here, because we are not aware of the circumstances which led to these mergers. You are dealing with a subject which is not really within the purview of the Provincial Government."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I do not want to question the policy of the States Ministry at all. I am trying to make this Government realize that it is a responsibility and that therefore they should have an effective voice in deciding the manner of taking over the administration."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The Government have their own responsibility. When we were asked to take over a certain State, we took it over and added it to the district which we thought was contiguous to the State as administrative convenience permitted. The whole question of how the future alignment of districts ought to take place will depend upon a fresh examination of the question."

Claims of Mr. V. Munayya Nayudu of Proddatur.

*50 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have settled the claim of V. Munayya Nayudu of Proddatur who supplied ragi and cholam to the wholesale stores, Cuddapah, at the instance of the Government during 1943–44 by fixing the price of one imperial maund consisting of 43½ measures of ragi according to the G.O. No. 243, Public (War), dated 21st January 1942, Cuddapah Collector's notification, dated 4th June 1944, in Ref. H. 1-3328/44 at Rs. 7–3–9 while admittedly the cost of Nellore putti consisting of 1,120 seers is at Rs. 200;

(*b*) whether the settlement was forced upon the party;

(*c*) whether the party claimed additional amount ; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) The claim has been settled by the Government at the rate of Rs. 7–3–9 per imperial maund of ragi which was the rate fixed by the Collector of Nellore and adopted by the Collector of Cuddapah.

" (*b*) No. The party claimed something more than was due but was unable to convince the Collector of Cuddapah, the Board or the Government that there was any mistake in calculation, but kept on saying that the Government had to pay him something more. He refused to take the sum offered to him. He was therefore told that he should take the amount offered in full and final settlement of his claim. He has done so.

" (*c*) Yes. His latest representation is under scrutiny of the Government.

" (*d*) Does not arise."